

Quad City Times

1-28-09

By Ed Tibbetts

U.S. Rep. Bruce Braley was in the Quad-Cities on Thursday to pitch a plan to label fuel that goes into drivers' gas tanks.

Braley, a Waterloo Democrat, said with much of the crude oil in the United States imported from hostile countries, consumers should know where their fuel originates.

"When we put food in our bodies or clothes on our backs, we know exactly where those products come from," he said. "Americans should have the same opportunity to vote with their wallets at the gas pump."

Braley met with reporters at the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard station at 7255 Northwest Blvd., Davenport.

The station sells E85, and Braley said labeling could increase consumer interest in the renewable fuel.

The Department of Energy would be charged with implementing the plan.

Growth Energy, a coalition of ethanol producers and groups, proposed a plan last September to label fuel. The group includes Iowa Falls-based Hawkeye Renewables.

Braley said 11 percent of oil coming to the U.S. is from Saudi Arabia, which he noted was home to 15 of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

He also singled out Nigeria as a large exporter of oil to the U.S. and the home of the man who tried to blow up a plane on Christmas Day as it prepared to land in Detroit.